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SERVICING TRUCK TIRES & WHEELS Safely

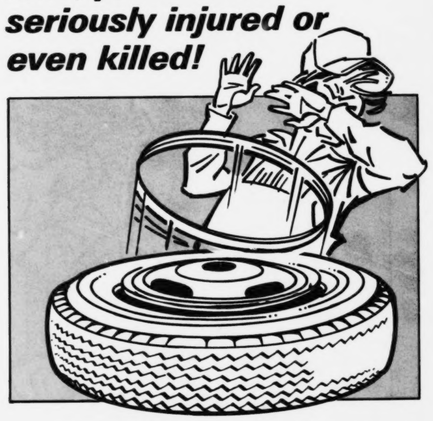
U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

TD 8.2:

An exploding truck tire and wheel has the force of dynamite!

If one blows up in your face, you can be seriously injured or even killed!



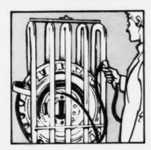
More than 70 percent of accidents involving exploding tires and wheels happen when they are being serviced. This includes wheels used on trucks, buses, trailers, and other heavy duty vehicles. **You should never work on any tire and wheel assembly without proper training and knowledge of how to do the job safely.**

Here are some basic safety precautions to follow when servicing heavy-duty tires and wheels. But remember, these are precautions, not substitutes for training.

Always...

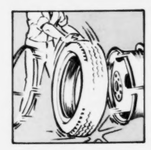
1. **Deflate a tire and wheel assembly** completely before removing it from the vehicle for servicing and demounting the side or lock rings and tire. On dual wheel assemblies, both tires should be deflated and removed before any work is started.

2. **Clean and inspect wheel components** before assembling them. Never use wheels or wheel parts that are cracked, bent, pitted with corrosion, or simply worn out.



3. **Inflate a tire and wheel assembly in a safety cage** or other restraining device.

4. **Use a clip-on air chuck** with remote valve and pressure gauge when inflating a tire. Stand clear!



5. **Be alert to the direction** a tire and wheel assembly might take if it explodes. Stand clear of that area as much as possible.

6. **Visually inspect** an inflated tire and wheel for proper seating of tire beads and side or lock rings, before removing it from safety cage or other restraining device.

Never...

1. **Never add air to a tire that was run flat** or run at 80% or less of recommended pressure. Use your spare. Before removing the low tire from the vehicle, make sure it is completely deflated. Later, have the assembly taken apart and check all the parts, including the side or lock rings, for damage.

2. **Never use any parts of a wheel assembly that you can't identify.** Always identify rims and side or lock rings according to their stamped markings—not by the way they look. See OSHA Matching Chart.

3. **Never mix rims and side or lock rings** that are of a different type or size, unless approved by the manufacturer. See OSHA Matching Chart.

4. **Never mix mismatched tires and wheels** such as 16" and 16.5". Select the tire size and construction to match the wheel size and load rating.

5. **Never inflate a tire and wheel assembly until you are sure** the parts are assembled properly.

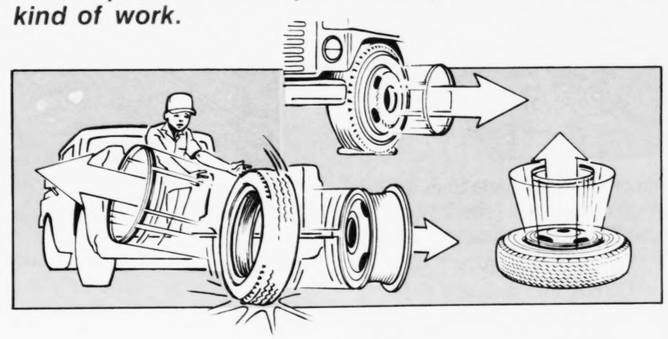
6. **Never try to seat tire beads,** or side or lock rings by using high inflation presures. Never inflate beyond 40 psi to seat tire beads.

7. **Never try to seat tire beads with starting fluid,** ether, or other flammable/explosive substance.

8. **Never weld on or near** an inflated or partially inflated tire and wheel assembly. Do not rework, weld, heat or braze any wheel parts for any reason.

9. **Never hammer or pry** on any type of tire and wheel assembly to correct a problem while the tire contains inflation pressure. If the parts are not seated properly, deflate the tire and correct the problem before proceeding.

If you have any doubts about what to do, seek help from a professional repair shop qualified to do this kind of work.

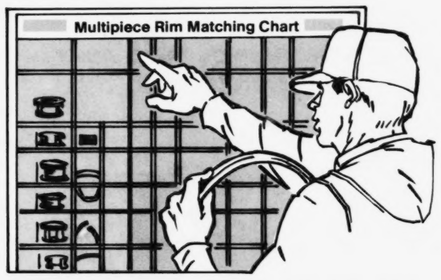


Free Tire and Wheel Safety Wall Charts

Commercial truck tire servicing operations are required by law to train their employees in this work and to observe certain safety precautions. If you service truck or bus tires or change tires on your own vehicles, order the following free safety charts from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):

Demounting and Mounting Procedures for Truck/Bus Tires, illustrates step-by-step procedures for properly servicing truck and bus tires. Shows examples of unservicable parts.

Multipiece Time Matching Chart, lists rims and parts that may and may not be used together. Also lists rims that have been discontinued.



You can order these charts from the local OSHA office near you (check your telephone directory) or contact:

U.S. Department of Labor
OSHA Publications Office
Room N-3101
Washington, DC 20210
Telephone: (202) 523-9667

WARNING!

You could be seriously injured or killed if you attempt to repair or service a multipiece or single piece rim wheel used on large vehicles such as trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and off-road machines without adequate training.

Additional information on truck tire safety and servicing can be obtained through:

National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration
Auto Safety Hotline
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590
Nationwide 1-800-424-9393
DC Metro Area 366-0123

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